

would never stand for it. This is a dangerous precedent. Given that more than 74 Guantanamo detainees have returned to active terrorism, there's a real concern about the potential for these remaining detainees to return to a life of terror.

The American people deserve the facts. I encourage the public to visit The New York Times "Guantanamo Docket" Web site to review what scant information about these detainees was released by the previous administration. I know they will find these summaries deeply troubling.

Of the many unstable countries to which detainees may be sent, I'm most concerned about the impending release of 26 detainees to Yemen, a growing haven for al Qaeda in the Persian Gulf. It is my understanding that the administration is also preparing to release several other detainees to another country that anyone with a basic understanding of world affairs would agree is unacceptable. Unfortunately, this information, again, has been classified.

As the President acknowledged, Yemen is one of the most unstable countries in the world today, and a country where al Qaeda has reconstituted its operations over the last year. The director of the National Counterterrorism Center, Michael Leiter, stated in an October Voice of America interview, "In Yemen, we have witnessed the reemergence of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and the possibility that that will become the base of operations for al Qaeda."

A number of former Guantanamo Bay detainees have returned to Yemen to launch terrorist attacks, including one just 2 months ago. On October 13, Saudi police prevented an imminent suicide bomber attack as two al Qaeda terrorists slipped across the border from Yemen. One of these would-be suicide bombers, Yousef Mohammed al-Shihri, was a former Guantanamo detainee released in 2007 to Saudi Arabia. He quickly left Saudi Arabia for Yemen, where he rejoined al Qaeda.

In September 2008, another former Guantanamo Bay detainee, Said Ali al-Shihri, helped orchestrate the terrorist attack on the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a, Yemen, killing 10 guards and civilians. Since that time, al Qaeda's posture in Yemen has grown stronger with the merger of the Saudi and Yemeni arms of al Qaeda into one group—al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula—with Yemen as its base for training and operation. Yemen is also now home to the radical cleric Anwar al-Aulaqi, who influenced Fort Hood gunman Major Nidal M. Hasan and who U.S. intelligence believes to be a critical link to al Qaeda's efforts to radicalize Americans and Europeans.

I repeatedly urged the President to halt the release of detainees to dangerously unstable countries. It is counterintuitive, and dangerous, to return terrorist detainees to countries he acknowledges as al Qaeda sanctuaries.

If this administration is not prepared to show good judgment on this issue, this Congress must take action to provide oversight and reconsider these irresponsible decisions. But this Congress has yet to hold a single hearing to raise these concerns and demand answers from this administration.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better judgment from this administration and better oversight from this Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

U.N.'S MULTIPLE ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Sixty-two years ago, on November 29, 1947, the United Nations did something it should be very proud of. That day, the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to authorize the creation of a Jewish state, paving the way for the founding of a democratic State of Israel 6 months later. But since then, the paths of the U.N. and Israel have diverged.

Israel's freedom, democracy, and prosperity are a model for the region and the world. The U.N., however, has abandoned its founding principles, has been manipulated and coerced by dictatorship after dictatorship, and has been plagued by corruption and mismanagement. Nowhere has the self-destructive, misguided path of the U.N. been more evident than in its bias towards Israel.

This week, instead of commemorating Israel's creation and celebrating its many achievements, the U.N. repeated its annual ritual of mourning Israel's existence by adopting six anti-Israel resolutions. As usual, it did so under the guise of its "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People," celebrated the same day as that historic 1947 General Assembly vote to create a Jewish state. But where is the U.N.'s "International Day of Solidarity" with the people of Israel, who continue to be threatened by Hamas, Hezbollah, and other such militant groups; and by their state sponsors, Iran and Syria, who continue to pursue nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver them? In the face of continued anti-Israel bias at the U.N., what has the United States done to stand up for our ally and fellow democracy?

This past April, Ambassador Susan Rice promised that the U.S. would be "fighting against the anti-Israel" rhetoric at the U.N. Unfortunately, this was easier said than done. The anti-Israel attacks at the U.N. are not an occasional diversion. They are relentless. They pervade the U.N., and they are not easily stopped.

An excellent case study in this bias is the U.N.'s response to Israel's conduct last winter of Operation Cast Lead, which was carried out to defend Israeli citizens from rocket and mortar attacks by Hamas and other violent extremist groups in Gaza. The Human Rights Council authorized a "fact-finding mission" with a prejudicial mandate to investigate Israel and only Israel. The mission released the so-called "Goldstone Report" that falsely accused Israel of deliberately attacking civilians, implicitly denied to Israel the right of self-defense, and recommended that the case be referred to the International Criminal Court. Despite the heralded U.S. membership and engagement in the Human Rights Council, that rogues' gallery adopted the report's recommendations and condemned Israel. But lest we forget, in the last year alone, the Human Rights Council has adopted seven anti-Israel resolutions and perpetuated a gross anti-Semitic assault through the Durban II Conference.

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So it should not have come as a surprise that the Human Rights Council endorsed the Goldstone Report.

The General Assembly quickly followed suit. The U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights praised the Goldstone Report. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has promised to transmit the report to the U.N. Security Council, where only a U.S. veto stands in the way of further anti-Israel action. And the ICC prosecutor has announced that he is considering launching an investigation into Israel's conduct, even though Israel is not an ICC member state and has a robust, independent judiciary that is presently dealing with a number of cases raised.

These efforts to deny Israel its right of self-defense can—and will—be used to deny that same right to other free democracies, including the United States. Why do I say this? Well, the ICC prosecutor has already declared that he has jurisdiction over Afghanistan and is performing a preliminary investigation into U.S. and NATO operations in that country, which could lead to politically motivated prosecutions of American soldiers.

These are the stakes of the U.N.'s anti-Israel agenda. The "new era of engagement" and increased U.S. funding to the U.N. has not made a positive difference at all.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the U.S. to use our strongest leverage, the billions of taxpayer dollars that we contribute to the U.N. every year. It is time to cut off funding to the U.N. until it produces real, effective reform.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, for our ally Israel, for our U.S. service men and women, and for the rights of free democracies everywhere, there is no time to lose.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE PROGRESSIVE MESSAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, my name is Congressman KEITH ELLISON, and I am here to claim the time on behalf of the Progressive Message which comes to the American people every Thursday night to discuss critical issues and a progressive perspective on these same issues. The Progressive Message is put on and organized by Progressive Caucus members who happen to represent one of the largest caucuses in the Congress.

The purpose of this message is to focus on critical issues from a progressive perspective. That means a perspective that all Americans are welcome and included; that we need civil rights, human rights; we need economic justice for working people and working families; we need to address poverty; and we need to address peace in the world; the idea that America, a country blessed, could help bestow blessings on other people in the world through example and not through imposition; the idea that the United States, a country blessed, can help demonstrate through an example what human rights can do, what respect for the rule of law

can do, what respect for human rights, women's rights can do. The Progressive Caucus is an instrument through which progressive ideas are shared.

Tonight what we want to talk about, Mr. Speaker, is jobs. Absolutely that's the topic tonight. Jobs is what we will be talking about. I would like to hear from anyone who might be listening later on what their perspective is on the jobs picture and what we can do about it.

Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate is 10.2 percent at this time. It could well climb higher by the end of the year. The fact is we have a jobs crisis, we have a jobs emergency, and we must do something about it now.

It's important to point out that as much as people who are unemployed need jobs, and they do, other people who are employed also need the unemployed to get jobs. It's important to bear in mind that when people are not working, their income goes down, their purchases at the store go down, their ability to consume and buy things that they need goes down, and if the store isn't selling, then the store can't put on more workers; they may even have to lay some off.

So this unemployment problem actually puts downward pressure on demand which puts other businesses who do have employees on the payroll in a position where they have to reconsider that.

Not only is the lack of a paycheck detrimental to the family that is not employed, but it also creates generational problems and it creates problems for the person who's unemployed, because when the economy turns around and they can get back in a position where they can maybe find that job, the employer is going to ask, Hey, what was going on with you over the last 3 years? Or 2 years? Or 6 months? And that hole in the resume has real consequences for that worker which may extend over the course of that person's lifetime.

Obviously, when unemployment is chronic and people are out of work for long stretches of time, their children sometimes are impacted by this and have to not only go with lower family income, which is obviously harmful to their development, but still are in a position where they have seen a parent go jobless for quite a long time which disadvantages them in terms of their ability to know how to access the job market and their hope, prospect and optimism as it relates to getting work. So unemployment is a problem, we've got to do something about it, and it is time to act.

Though the Democratic Caucus and Congress did not create the situation, and it certainly wasn't created overnight, it does need to be fixed very soon. Ten months of the new leadership of the White House cannot eclipse that of nearly 10 years of George Bush and the Republican Congress who bankrupted the public trust.

After nearly a decade of handing over middle-class tax dollars to the wealthy

est 1 percent, we've now got to take real action for working Americans. After nearly a decade of a policy that encouraged multimillion-dollar CEO bonuses over raises for American workers, we've got to do something about the job picture in America.

The economic policies of the last 10 years put President Obama and this Congress in a situation where it may not have been a situation of our making, but it is a problem that we have responsibility to correct. We're not going to say that, Yeah, we got handed two wars; yeah, we got handed hundreds of billions of dollars of debt, a crumbling infrastructure, a home mortgage foreclosure crisis—one out of eight mortgages is in default—a global climate crisis, and a financial sector ravaged by greed and lax regulation.

We're not going to rely on any excuse. We're going to get after the problem, and we're going to do it now. In short, the greatest economic and financial crisis since the Great Depression is visiting the American economy right now and people are feeling it, and it's time to do something about it.

This is why we are proposing, and I am proposing, and I am encouraging other people to support a jobs bill that would do a few things: American jobs. Invest in transportation and schools. Schools all over America are crumbling. Schools all over America have old pipes. Schools all over America are drafty and need windows replaced and the paint is peeling in many of them, not all of them but many of them. And any school teacher, any principal or any school kid can tell you that.

We need people to do the work. We have people who are willing to do the work, and we have things that need to be worked on. What we have to do is bring the two together: invest in transportation, including transit, urban transportation, light rail, and schools. This is an urgent problem, it needs fixing, and people need work. Let's pay them to do it.

State and local government relief. All over this country, States and cities and localities are having to cut back on services that they provide to their citizens. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has taken the public circle and said without the stimulus package, a hundred thousand teachers in California would be out of work. So that was an example of a good thing. But it's not nearly enough.

We need more to be done, because in this era and in this time, we see local governments having to lay off police officers, firefighters, public works people, teachers. We can't allow this to happen. State governments and local governments around the country are facing serious deficits and the Federal Government should step in to help.

We also need to strengthen safety nets. During times of economic downturn, there's greater pressure on our food shelves, greater pressure on our clothing shelves; and we need to understand that when unemployment runs